



The interviewer in the respondent's shoes

What can we learn of how interviewers answer survey questions?

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Interviewer “task as respondent”

Goal

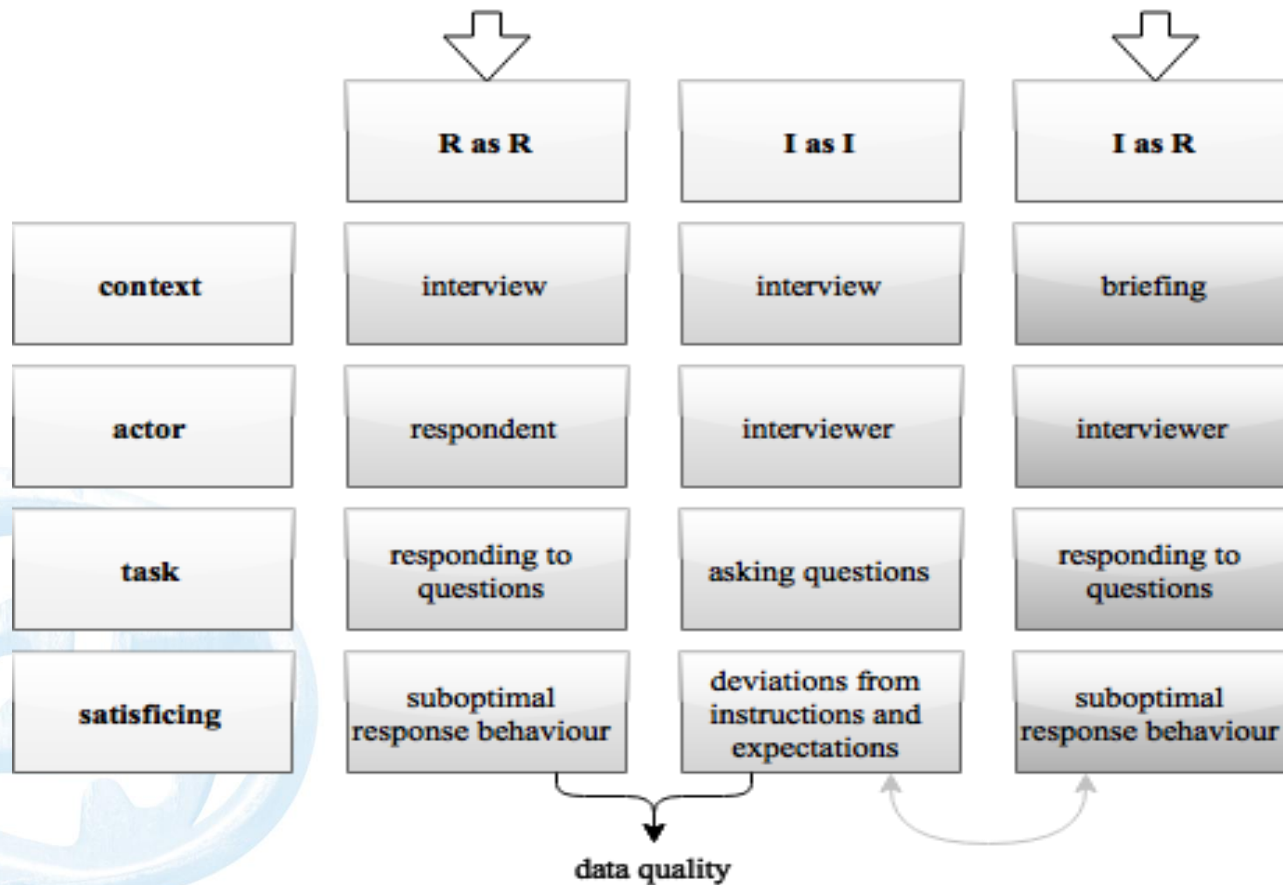
- (1) Help interviewers to become familiar with questionnaire
- (2) Gather information on interviewers

Background characteristics?

Attitudes and opinions?

Effort and carefulness

Link with tasks in the survey interview



Data and methods

Data European Social Survey round 6 Belgium
For respondents and interviewers

Measures

- item nonresponse
- multiple response
- response differentiation
- interview speed



Results

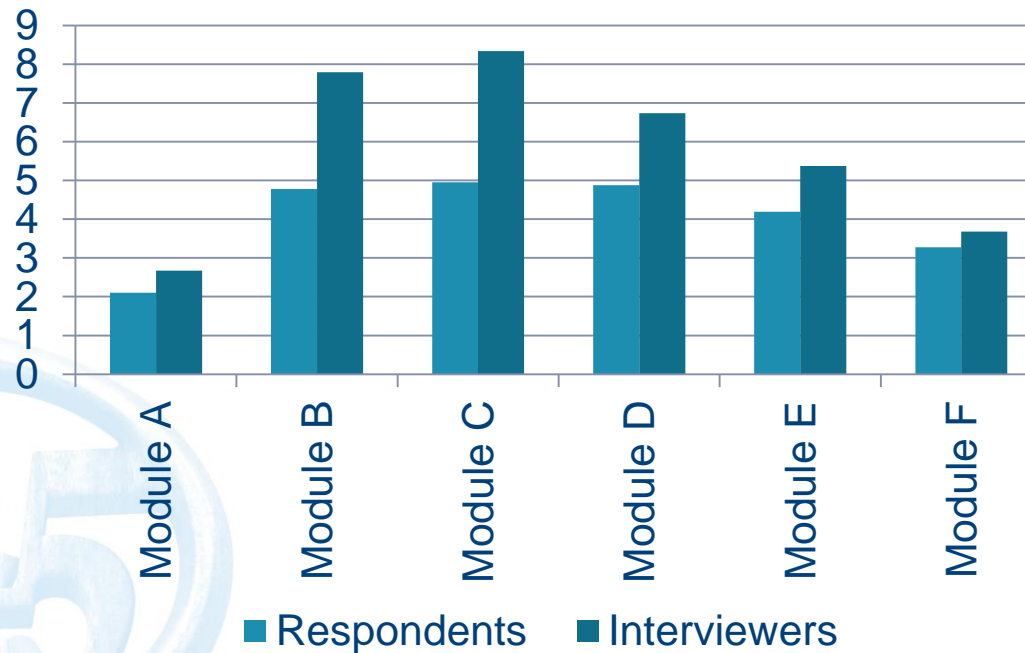
Performance during the “task as respondent”

	Respondents		Interviewers	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Income item nonresponse	0.0877	0.2830	0.6000	0.4915
Parents' education nonresponse	0.1113	0.3146	0.0774	0.0215
Democracy module nonresponse	0.1182	0.3230	0.1419	0.0281
No multiple response	0.7956	0.4034	0.7677	0.0340
Differentiation CES-D 8 depression scale	0.9674	0.2834	0.8520	0.3470
Differentiation Schwartz Human Values scale	1.1142	0.3235	1.0580	0.0250
Differentiation democracy understanding	1.5756	0.7978	1.6696	0.0504
Interview speed	3.8994	0.8323	5.0761	1.9110

Results

Performance during the “task as respondent”

Interview speed



Results

Interviewer effects in indicators

Quality indicator

	σ_{int}	σ_{resid}	ICC
Income item nonresponse	0.718 (0.202) ***	(constr.)	17.91%
Parents' education nonresponse	0.537 (0.155) **	(constr.)	14.03%
Democracy module nonresponse	0.990 (0.224) ***	(constr.)	23.13%
No multiple response	3.645 (0.572) ***	(constr.)	52.59%
Differentiation CES-D 8 depression scale	0.004 (0.001) **	0.077 (0.003) ***	4.94%
Differentiation Schwartz Human Values scale	0.006 (0.002) ***	0.098 (0.003) ***	5.77%
Differentiation democracy understanding	0.020 (0.009) *	0.617 (0.021) ***	3.14%
Interview speed	0.192 (0.030) ***	0.534 (0.018) ***	26.45%

Results

Impact of interviewer response behavior on registered response behavior

	(1) Household income nonresponse			(2) Parents' education nonresponse			(3) Democracy module nonresponse			(4) No multiple response		
	est.	s.e.		est.	s.e.		est.	s.e.		est.	s.e.	
Fixed												
(intercept)	-1.473	0.2839	***	-1.281	0.4227	***	-2.623	0.3936	***	2.237	0.3148	***
Respondent-level												
age	-0.014	0.0045	**	0.005	0.0040	ns	0.015	0.0040	***	-0.004	0.0042	ns
male	-0.397	0.1762	*	-0.434	0.1583	**	-0.738	0.1655	***	0.622	0.1574	***
no secondary	0.353	0.2071	ns	0.311	0.1853	ns	0.711	0.2059	**	0.525	0.1892	**
higher education	-0.408	0.2650	ns	-0.500	0.2376	*	-0.019	0.2615	ns	-0.207	0.1969	ns
Interviewer-level												
same quality indicator	0.726	0.2531	**	0.035	0.3731	ns	0.566	0.3237	ns	1.561	0.4066	***
Random												
(intercept)	0.647	0.201	**	0.594	0.168	***	0.968	0.234	***	3.354	0.543	***
(residual)	1.000	(constr.)		1.000	(constr.)		1.000	(constr.)		1.000	(constr.)	

* p<0.05

** p<0.01

*** p<0.001

Results

Impact of interviewer response behavior on registered response behavior

	(5) Depression differentiation			(6) Democracy differentiation			(7) Values differentiation			(8) Speed		
	est.	s.e.		est.	s.e.		est.	s.e.		est.	s.e.	
Fixed												
(intercept)	0.956	0.0303	***	1.489	0.0871	***	0.872	0.0415	***	4.039	0.1213	***
<i>Respondent-level</i>												
age	-0.001	0.0003	ns	-0.001	0.0010	ns	0.004	0.0004	***	-0.014	0.0009	***
male	0.027	0.0131	*	0.151	0.0371	***	-0.091	0.0144	***	0.072	0.0328	*
no secondary	-0.024	0.0159	ns	0.088	0.0449	ns	0.029	0.0175	ns	-0.046	0.0400	ns
higher education	-0.010	0.0179	ns	0.032	0.0508	ns	0.008	0.0197	ns	-0.038	0.0449	ns
<i>Interviewer-level</i>												
same quality indicator	0.037	0.0247	ns	0.003	0.0351	ns	0.100	0.0315	**	0.091	0.0204	***
Random												
(intercept)	0.004	0.001	**	0.018	0.008	*	0.006	0.002	***	0.173	0.027	***
(residual)	0.075	0.003	***	0.612	0.021	***	0.091	0.003	***	0.460	0.016	***

* p<0.05

** p<0.01

*** p<0.001

Conclusion

“Task as respondent” is valuable activity

- (1) Help interviewers to become familiar with questionnaire
- (2) Gather information on **interviewer effort and carefulness**

Suboptimal performance reflected both in this task and in conducted interviews

- interview speed
- multiple response
- nonresponse income

→ **Targeted feedback**, prior to start of fieldwork